

# Results of the 2009 CQ DX Marathon

BY JOHN SWEENEY,\* K9EL

**D**espite 3% fewer countries being available in 2009 and sunspots still in hiding, the 2009 CQ DX Marathon was anything but dull. Based on how close the scores were at the top of both classes, the 2009 DX Marathon was the most exciting yet! Participation was up 70% over 2008, so there were more participants chasing fewer countries. Logs were received from 320 stations in 48 countries and 23 CQ zones—all significantly more than for the 2008 Marathon. Club competition was noticeably up this time, especially in Brazil, where DX Marathon participation was up over 500% from 2008! Once again we are especially thankful to all those who participated in the Marathon for the first time.

The lack of DX and sunspots did not affect the Formula Class scores too much, with average scores only 3% less than in 2008, exactly matching the available country reduction. Approximately 70% of all logs submitted were in the Unlimited Class, where average scores were down 10%, yet only 2 points separated the next 5 stations after the Unlimited Class winner! Competition in the top class was indeed fierce. Missing one country can quickly move an operator down the list.

As participation expands in the DX Marathon, unique competitions are developing. For 2009, there were 10 CW-only submissions and 29 SSB-only scores, both significant increases over previous years. W4VQ, the previous top CW scorer, increased his score by 6 points, yet was 1 point short of the top CW score of 299 submitted by W1JR. The top SSB score of 284 was also higher than in 2008 and was submitted by W4JS. CW clearly is not dead! W8QZA once again held the top spot for the low power (10 watts or less) group. The low bands proved popular, with K5NU submitting an 80-meters only score of 238, working 199 countries and 39 zones, only missing Zone 34.

For the DX Marathon Unlimited, the winning score of 321 points for 2009 was a total of 281 countries/40 zones and was accomplished by W9KNI from his Oregon QTH. Who says contests can't be won from the West Coast? In 2008, Bob tied the winner in terms of points, but lost out, as the date of his last country was later than that of winner OM3EY. This time Bob won with a small margin as runners-up

\*Program Manager, CQ DX Marathon  
K9el@dxmarathon.com



Saulius Zalnerauskas, LY5W, one of three runners-up in the 2009 Unlimited Class, in his shack.

## Winner Profile:

**Slobodan "Bob" Sevo, E77O**  
Formula Class Winner



Slobodan "Bob" Sevo, E77O, 2009 Formula Class winner, in his shack.

Bob was first licensed in 1968 and operated mainly from YU4EJC and 4N4A. He received YU4SO in 1980 and has been chasing DX ever since. He needs only six countries to complete DXCC.

Bob made his career as a telecom engineer, but is now retired and operating primarily on CW. His equipment includes a well-used FT-101Z, while his antennas consist of inverted-Vees for 40/80 and a 20-meter ground-plane vertical. Other bands operate through a tuner to one of his two antennas. Bob enjoys cycling and nature walks with his wife and two daughters.



Sergey Smirnov, RU6YY, one of the three runners-up in the 2009 Unlimited Class, with his many awards.

LY5W, OM3EY, and RU6YY each scored 319 points. Congratulations to Bob and the runners-up! I4TJE at 318 points and PP5EG at 317 points were not far behind. With fewer countries available in 2009, competition at the top was very close. A total of 289 countries were active and approved for the DX Marathon in 2009, a drop of 9 from 2008.

In Formula Class, Slobodan, E77O, held the top spot, working 218 countries and all 40 zones using verticals, dipoles, and 100 watts. SQ1EIX was close behind

at 217 countries and 39 zones, also using dipoles and verticals. The top North American scorer was K4WY at 230 points (191 countries and 39 zones) using an inverted-L antenna. Congratulations to Slobodan and all the Formula Class participants, as working DX with low power, wire antennas, and no sunspots is certainly a challenge!

Once again the plaques for the winners in both classes will be provided by the Northern Illinois DX Association. We sincerely appreciate the association's sup-

port for sponsoring the DX Marathon plaques. Winners of the 2008 contest have received their plaques, which now occupy a prominent position in their shacks.

Although many of the DX Marathon participants use computer logging and electronic tools to populate the DX Marathon Score Sheet, no program is perfect and each submission should be manually checked before sending it to the Marathon manager. A simple error in the callsign prefix can cause that contact to be disqualified. We understand that some DX stations use high-speed CW and 5H could be copied as HS, or E7 copied as EZ (common error). Many resources exist online to confirm the real callsign. However, the most common errors remain zone errors (especially Zone 2), and many stations once again lost one or more Zone points. The DX Marathon website ([www.dxmarathon.com](http://www.dxmarathon.com)) has detailed information to determine if a station is in Zone 2, plus a listing of known Zone 2 stations. Other major deductions included lost credit for Zones 3, 4, and 5. Prefixes in the U.S. do not necessarily indicate the location of the station. If the operator has not confirmed his/her QTH, please use various online resources to verify an operator's QTH. Also please keep in mind that not all W8 stations are in Zone 4 and not all W4 stations are in Zone 5. The DX Marathon website has a link to the official CQ magazine Zone listing. Other significant zone errors included confusion over Zones 17, 18, and 19. Please check carefully before submitting your log.

2009 had its share of pirates, so the actual scores are less than the high-claimed scores posted on the DX Marathon website. The most "active" pirates were 3W2BV, 3Y0Q, C31LJ/M, HV3VO, OD5GR, TU2FQ (CW), any ZD9, ZK3T, ZL9C, and ZL9AI. Any claimed QSOs with those stations and others were deducted from your score along with any "not in log" QSOs. Fortunately, NIL deductions were minimal in 2009. Other common errors (and thus deductions) included reversing the locations for the two JD countries and for the two Cook Islands. Many points were lost among these four islands. Quite a few stations claimed Kosovo credit with YU8 prefixes, but unfortunately all actually were in Serbia. The only approved operations in 2009 were portable stations early in 2009. Although it is frustrating to many, QSOs with 9Q/DK3MO and 5N/LZ1QK were not accepted by either the ARRL or DX Marathon in 2009. Both countries were active by approved stations.

Need some extra points for the 2010 Marathon? Don't forget that the CQ countries list includes additional valid countries that are not part of the ARRL DXCC program. Since most logging programs use the ARRL list, don't forget to work TA1

### DX Marathon Certificates Update

We are pleased to announce the certificate winners for the 2006 and 2007 DX Marathon as shown below. Certificates have been prepared and will be in the hands of the recipients very soon. Certificate winners for 2008 and 2009 will be available soon. Details and sample certificates can be found on the DX Marathon website.

#### 2006 Certificate Winners for the top scores in the following categories:

**#1 Country:** DL5NAM, T94GB, EB1EWE, EC8AFM, F1JKJ, G1VDP, GU0SUP, I2WIJ, JA7OXR, LU2NI, LZ3FN, OK1BLU, OM3EY, PA0MIR, PT7VB, SM6CNN, SP5CGN, SV1DPI, TA3J, RU6YY, VE3ZZ, VK3FM, K0ARY/VP9, N0FW

**#1 Zone:** W6RLL, N0FW, W1JR, PT7VB, LU2NI, SM6CNN, OM3EY, RU6YY, SV1DPI, JA7OXR, VK6HG, VK3FM, EC8AFM

**All SSB:** KE4MBP

**All CW:** W4VQ

**All Digital:** GU0SUP

**20M Single Band:** K0ARY/VP9

#### 2007 Certificate Winners for the top scores in the following categories:

**#1 Country:** DL5XL, T94GB, EA4EQD, EC8AFM, F1JKJ, G4IY, GU0SUP, HA1CW, HC2SA, 7Z1HL, I4TJE, JA0DAI, LA6CF, LU2NI, LZ1VB, OH5VG, OK2PAY, OM3EY, ON4ON, OZ7YY, PA0MIR, PY2OMS, SM6CNN, SP5CGN, SV1DPI, TA1DX, RU6YY, US7MM, V5/DL5XL, VE3ZZ, VK4AN, N0FW, YU3A, YV6BXN, ZS6DXB

**#1 Zone:** VE8DW, K6TA, N0FW, W1JR, HC2SA, PY2OMS, LU2NI, OZ7YY, OM3EY, RU6YY, SV1DPI, 7Z1HL, JA0DAI, VK6HG, VK4AN, EC8AFM, ZS6DXB

**All SSB:** LU2NI

**All CW:** W4VQ

**All Digital:** OH5VG

**6M Single Band:** VE2PIJ

**20M Single Band:** DK8JB

**40M Single Band:** N9TF



Eduard Melcer, OM3EY, last year's winner and one of three runners-up in the 2009 Unlimited Class, with his DX Marathon plaque proudly displayed.

(European Turkey), IT (Sicily), IG9/IH9 (African Italy), and others. For complete details, go to <[www.dxmarathon.com](http://www.dxmarathon.com)>.

### QRM

With good levels of activity, a few band openings and several superb expeditions, this was an amazing year for working DX. Thanks for keeping this activity alive. . . . **N8BR**. Great operating incentive. Added about 12 more entities over last year. Wait till next year. . . . **W4QN**. Thanks for this contest. I doubled my score from

last year and managed to crack 100 DX entities. . . . **W9KVR**. This is my third year and every year my score increases. The Excel file is excellent and can be used for private statistics. . . . **DJ9ZB**. I really enjoyed taking part in this excellent competition. . . . **PP1CZ**. Another reasonable year with not so good conditions. . . . **N0FW**. Thanks for a wonderful season again. . . . **KD8GOX**. Not much improvement over last year because of the low sunspots, but another enjoyable contest nevertheless. . . . **G4MUL**. Results were not as good as 2007/2008, but acceptable considering my antenna CC&R lim-

### 2009 Top Scores

**#1 Country:** 4W6FR, 9A2GA, BD1TCC, CE3PG, DP1POL, CT1AHU, DL5AN, DU1IVT, E77O, EA4KD, EI7CC, F5CQ, G3WW, GA4PRB, MW0CRI, I4TJE, JA0DAI, JT1BZ, W9KNI, WP3GW, LA6CF, LU3JVO, LX1ER, LY5W, OH6MW, OK2SG, OM3EY, ON4ON, OZ7YY, PA0MIR, PP5EG, PY0FF, RU6YY, S51DX, SM5DJZ, SP3BGD, SV1DPI, TA1HZ, UY0MM, V31TB, V51YJ, VE1DX, VK8PDX, VU2PTT, T6AF, YO9HP, YU1PC, ZL2IFB

**#1 Zone:** W9KNI, N0FW, W1JR, V31TB, WP3GW, PP5EG, CE3PG, LU3JVO, ON4ON, LY5W/OM3EY (Tie), RU6YY, YO9HP, T6AF, VU2PTT, JT1BZ, BD1TCC, JA0DAI, DU1IVT, 4W6FR, VK8PDX, VK2MWG, ZL2IFB, V51YJ

**All SSB:** W4JS

**All CW:** W1JR (CW Submission)

**All Digital:** IK5FKF

**6M Single Band:** K4MM

**10M Single Band:** YO9HJY

**20m Single Band:** K7MTR

**40M Single Band:** K4VSC

**80M Single Band:** K5NU

### Club Competition Update

Last year, the Northern Arizona DX Association challenged the Central Arizona DX association by comparing the top 10 scores from each club in the 2009 Marathon. Dave, W7FYW, reports that the CADXA accepted the challenge and won the competition. Congratulations to AA7A, N7CW, K7MTR, W8AEF, NQ7R, W7RV, KF7E, K7WP, and K7CMR!

In 2009, more than fifty PY stations competed in the DX Marathon as part of the Araucaria DX Group. PY5EG reports that they have established a website where members can upload their scores and compare their scores to others throughout the year. Check out their website at: <<http://maratona.gadx.org>>

Let's hear from some other clubs that are using the DX Marathon as a basis for club competition. Send your updates to: <[comments@dxmarathon.com](mailto:comments@dxmarathon.com)>.

itations. . . . **K8CQ**. Missed a couple of countries on CW, but did better than I expected. Already working on this year's Marathon. It keeps me interested. . . . **W4VQ**. Thanks for the great fun, will try to do much better in 2010. . . . **IK2DJV**. 2009 was quite nice for me as I received my DXCC endorsement for 20m. TCSWAT activities will go on fully in 2010 with details to be announced on the website. . . . **TA1HZ**. Thanks again for a great contest. It keeps the year interesting. . . . **W4CU**. This

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The view from the antenna of Bob Locher, W9KNI, winner, Unlimited Class.

was my first time in the event and really had fun exclusively QRP. I had hoped to break 200, but there's always next year. . . . **ND0C**. Thanks for the contest. . . . It was a bit challenging to get a good score. . . . **VK8HPB**. I enjoyed the contest this year. All QSOs were worked while mobile. . . . **JA7OXR**. Surprising what can be worked without sunspots. . . . **K3KO**. It was a really great year considering the lack of sunspots. The big fall DX contests were a superb source of the rare ones plus a number

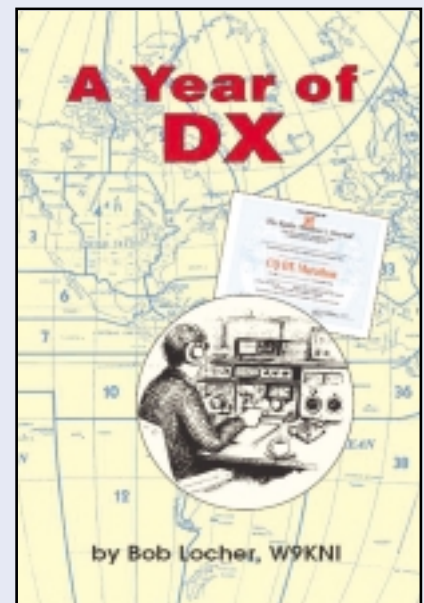
of DXpeditions to the far ends of the earth helped a lot! See you in 2010. . . . **K4WY**. This is really a cool event and helped motivate me to stay active DXing throughout the year. I'll be plugging away at it again in 2010, as time allows. . . . **ND0C**. What a great pleasure to participate for the very first time in the DX Marathon. I was very excited with this competition and I worked as many stations as I could. I was surprised to work more than 260 entities. . . . **PY2EL**. Great contest, exceeded my goal



Mike Mauldin, K5NU, in his shack. Mike had the amazing 80-meters-only score of 199 countries and 39 zones. Mike uses a 4-square in southern Texas.

of 200 points this year. . . . **N1AM**. The DX Marathon is a really great contest. I hope that more African stations will enter in 2010. . . . **V51YJ**. If only I had a SteppIR and an amplifier. . . . **K9DDO/4**. All QSOs were mobile so not a very high score, but it was fun, especially the CW contacts. . . . **WA7QCC**. There was a lot of good DX out there, but some of them were on when there was no propagation to the SE states. . . . **W4JS**. Could have added a few more but I was traveling a lot remodeling a vacation home. . . . **K4MQG**. Happy to enter the CQ DX Marathon contest again. . . . **JA3HZT**. I have a restricted license, so all QSOs are only 28 MHz, SSB, but I don't recommend to anybody sharing the radio with their father. . . . **YO9HGY**. Who would have thought you could work 113 DXCC countries, phone only, with 100 watts in only 9 months with a 135-ft off center fed dipole at 25 ft.? Thanks for a great contest. . . . **KA3ITJ**. My entry is a low score because it is QRP and 50 MHz only. . . . **M1DUD**. All contacts were with 100w and an all-band indoor antenna. Please keep the rules as they are as the contest is fun, and a great incentive to work DX. . . . **KE4PT**. I am already collecting new countries and zones for 2010. . . . **PP1CZ**. The contest I started with in our club year had 30 entries for 2009. We are giving away nice prizes so we hope to have more participants. . . . **AA4SC**. Thanks for the work you do for all of us. . . . **W0HT**.

**New DX Marathon Book Now Available**



A copy of the book cover for W9KNI's new book on the DX Marathon.

Bob Locher, W9KNI, this year's Unlimited Class winner and 2008 runner-up, has completed writing a new book about his participation in the 2008 Marathon. It is entitled *A Year of DX*. Bob made an all-out effort to win the contest, and the book chronicles many of his methods, his success (and disappointments) during his year-long DX effort. Bob is the author of other DX books, including *The Complete DXer*. His books are published by Idiom Press.

# Results 2009 CQ DX Marathon

(Any comments appear beneath the line score of the entrant)

Call	Class	Countries	Zones	Score	OK1DNJ	U	230	39	269	K8YC	U	184	34	218
<b>W9KNI</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>321</b>	ZL2IFB	U	229	40	269	ON6LY	U	180	38	218
					K8SM	U	228	40	268	PT7ZT	U	182	36	218
					N0RB	U	229	39	268					All SSB
					K4GHS	U	226	40	266	V51YJ	U	178	40	218
					S51DX	U	225	40	265	N5ZM	U	177	40	217
					VE3ZZ	U	227	38	265	KD8GOX	U	176	40	216
					W0EWM	U	226	37	263	LA2LI	U	178	37	215
					F5JY	U	223	39	262	LY2MM	U	175	40	215
					W8AEF	U	223	39	262	VU2PTT	U	181	34	215
					N6QQ	U	222	39	261	G8MIA	F	178	36	214
					KZ2I	U	220	40	260	K8DD	U	177	37	214
					N3CDA	U	220	40	260	PY2KP	U	178	36	214
									All SSB					
					PY5MJ	U	222	38	260	PY1NB	U	174	39	213
					<b>E770</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>258</b>	VK8PDX	U	174	39	213
									<b>Winner Formula Class</b>					
					PT7VB	U	225	33	258	K9DDO/4	U	176	36	212
					W90A	U	218	40	258	LY3BM	F	173	38	211
					K6FW	U	220	37	257	PP5BZ	U	171	39	210
					SV1DPI	U	219	38	257	PU5OGE	U	174	36	210
					NQ7R	U	218	38	256	PY5CA	U	172	38	210
					SQ1EIX	F	217	39	256	W2YE	U	176	34	210
					W8AV	U	216	39	255	K3JT	U	174	35	209
					I2WJ	U	215	38	253	K4MM	F	172	36	208
					K3NK	U	214	39	253	JA6FGC	F	171	36	207
					PT7ZZ	U	215	38	253	JA3HZT	U	168	38	206
					RU3PU	U	213	38	251	W3ZGD	U	170	36	206
					UA3VVB	U	212	39	251	AD1C	F	168	37	205
					W1EBI	U	208	40	248	JA1IRH	F	167	37	204
					W7RV	U	209	38	247	VE3UZ	U	168	36	204
					W4VIC	U	207	39	246	W91LY	U	166	38	204
					PP1CZ	U	208	37	245	SM7BHM	U	168	35	203
					JN3SAC	U	204	40	244	N1AM	F	167	35	202
					K7ACZ	U	206	38	244	K9UQN	U	164	35	199
					IK2DJV	U	203	40	243	LY2TS	U	162	37	199
					PY6HD	U	204	39	243	W4UFO	U	165	34	199
									All SSB					
					EA4KD	U	258	40	298	K8CQ	F	162	35	197
					K0XB	U	258	40	298	K8RMC	U	164	31	195
					SM5DJZ	U	259	39	298	ND0C	F	162	33	195
					W4VQ	U	258	40	298	EI7CC	U	160	34	194
									All CW					
					AA4SC	U	258	39	297	PA0MIR	U	157	36	193
					K5EK	U	258	39	297	VK2MWWG	U	154	39	193
					W2QO	U	257	40	297					All SSB
					YO9HP	U	257	40	297	VE3XD	U	154	38	192
					I2KBD	U	256	39	295	N7WO	U	154	37	191
					UX1UA	U	254	40	294					All CW
					AA7A	U	253	40	293	ON6FC	U	153	37	190
					DJ9ZB	U	255	38	293	W0RIC	U	155	35	190
					K4YR	U	254	39	293					All SSB
					N6AR	U	253	40	293	W7YS	U	154	36	190
					W3GQ	U	254	39	293	W8QZA	F	153	37	190
					W3OA	U	251	40	291					5 Watts
					DJ2PJ	U	250	40	290	JA7OXR	F	151	38	189
					JA0DAI	U	251	39	290					All Mobile
					W0HT	U	252	38	290	PY3SB	F	150	39	189
					F5CQ	U	249	40	289	N6KW	U	151	36	187
					F1JKJ	U	248	40	288	AE4TE	U	152	34	186
					LY3W	U	248	40	288					All SSB
					N4PQX	U	248	40	288	PY1SX	U	153	32	185
					N8MZ	U	248	40	288					All SSB
					N4LV	U	246	40	286	PY3OPP	U	150	34	184
					OH6MW	U	244	40	284	EA4FSL	U	150	32	182
					OK2SG	U	245	39	284	EA3AKA	U	147	34	181
					PY5EW	U	244	40	284	KE4PT	F	148	33	181
					W4JS	U	244	40	284	PY2ADR	U	144	34	178
									All SSB					
					WX6V	U	244	39	283	PY2IQ	U	145	33	178
					K6TA	U	242	40	282	BD1TCC	F	141	35	176
					N7CW	U	242	39	281	LU3JVO	F	142	34	176
					WA5VGI	U	243	38	281	RX3VF	F	144	32	176
					W4HG	U	239	40	279					All CW
					LY9Y	U	238	40	278	G4MUL	F	140	35	175
					WA6JRZ	U	237	40	277	N4QVM	U	141	34	175
					N1GC	U	237	38	275	VK6HG	F	142	32	174
					K7MTR	U	234	40	274					All CW
									All Digital					
					PY0FF	U	182	38	220	YU1PC	F	141	33	174
					NF7E	U	180	39	219					All CW
					WD6L	U	181	38	219	2E1FVS	U	139	33	172
					K1MIJ	U	182	36	218	DP1POL	U	134	36	170
					K1SND	U	182	36	218	K4DXA	U	135	35	170
					K6TTT	F	180	38	218					All SSB

